

AG108

Blues and Beyond

Adrian Whyte

"Dirty Blues"

I often stretch the blues idiom with this column because I feel as though blues licks can be found all over the place. Everywhere! And to some degree it's true, but having said that - my blues licks aren't everywhere now are they? So for today's column I thought I would share some dirty blues licks. On the contrary, they are recorded quite cleanly and without any dirt, but that's for clarity and learning. You should crank it up and get messy!

All Exercises played at 80bpm in the E minor Blues scale.

Ex 1

You feelin' lucky punk? This lick starts out as cool E minor open pentatonics and the last part finishes reminiscent of a lick from the good the bad and the

ugly. Which means the 'you feelin' lucky quote' is totally irrelevant, seeing as that's a later Clint Eastwood film. Articulate these licks however you like with bends, fingers etc.. they aren't super technical so let your technique or lack there of bring out the character in these ideas.

Ex 2

A fairly straight up use of the blues scale, the walk up builds some tension before leaving an unresolved feeling on the last note. That note is the 4th note of the E minor scale, hinting at a change of chord. There's only three chords in a typical blues.. use your ear kid!

Ex 3

If you're not feeling patronised by the last sentence of the last exercise, you'll take great pleasure in this one. The first part of this lick uses a mini chord of sorts -a double stop - to launch the idea. You'll notice a slight bend on the 10th fret in the recording- it's incidental but I left it cos it's dirty and I like it that way.

Ex 4

Quickslide McBride. You'll notice this lick has some fast slides to the unison note (same pitch different string more or less) switching from the 12th fret on the first string to the 17th on the second and back and so on.

Ex 5

I've mentioned before I like Billy Gibbons, and although this is not a Billy Gibbons lick, I'm suspicious of it having some reference about it. It's bound to happen if you wanna play dirty blues. I couldn't decide whether to play this legato (with pull offs) or flat pick the fast bits, you can do either! I recorded the lick with legato as it's easier, so you can literally pull off the first 4 notes if you like.

Note that all of these licks are played with fairly strict timing and it's not that often that blues licks will start on the first beat - I try to keep the ideas simple so you can build on them. So go get dirty and have a go at these licks - make them your own you filthy devils!

DIRTY BLUES

DON'T PLAY THESE AT THE DINNER TABLE
BY ADRIAN WHYTE

STANDARD TUNING

♩ = 80

E-GT

Ex 1

mf

Ex 2

T
A
B

Ex 3

Ex 4

7
8 9 7 9 8 7 10 8 (8) 10 11 12 10 15 12 17 17 (17)

Ex 5

6 5 3 0 4 3 4 2 0 2 0